OBSERVATIONS ON THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREAT-MENT OF TYPHOID PERFORATION,

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WHEN we consider the fact that perforation occurs in 2.5 to 3 per cent. of all cases of typhoid, and that fully one-third of the mortality of the disease is due to this cause, the importance of the surgical treatment of this complication, by which approximately 25 per cent. of cases are saved, is evident at once.

In accordance with the above it is estimated that something like 25,000 die annually from typhoid perforation, one-quarter of whom might be saved if promptly operated upon. Osler says that during the first 10 years of the Johns Hopkins Hospital nearly one-third of the mortality of typhoid was due to perforation, and that since then this proportion has increased owing to the striking reduction of the death-rate of the tox-æmic group.

As to the mortality of these cases subjected to surgical operation, Harte and Ashhurst,² in a paper read in 1903, collected 362 cases with a mortality of 74.03 per cent. Doubtless this is a little too low if all the cases operated upon could be included, for unsuccessful cases are often not reported except in connection with successful cases.

The result of surgical operation in typhoid perforation has doubtless improved in recent years. This improvement depends largely on two factors, an early diagnosis, with a correspondingly early operation, and improvements in the technique. In some of the cases operated upon I have been im-

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pressed with the advanced stage of the peritonitis in comparison with the supposed time since perforation. It is true that it is a well-established fact that peritonitis may occur without actual perforation. G. G. Davis ³ and E. G. Cutler and J. W. Elliot ⁴ have reported operations for peritonitis during typhoid where no perforation and no other cause of the peritonitis was found save in the latter case a deep ulceration about ready to perforate. It is quite likely that the peritonitis in not a few cases operated on after perforation may have commenced before the actual perforation.

All are agreed that an operation as soon as possible after perforation, which depends upon an early diagnosis, is most essential to the best results. The fact that the results in cases operated upon long after perforation has occurred have been surprisingly good is not incompatible with the importance of early operation. In the statistical tables of Harte and Ashhurst 2 55 cases were operated on over 36 hours after perforation with a mortality of 67.2 per cent., a lower mortality than in those operated on at any earlier period. This is readily explained by the fact that patients surviving the perforation so long have a milder infection or the process has been slow enough to permit a combative reaction or a limitation of the process. My own experience is limited to 6 eases operated on in the Presbyterian Hospital and I case in private practice. In addition I have collected the remaining cases, 11 in number, operated on in the Presbyterian Hospital in the last 10 years, comprising all the cases operated on for typhoid perforation according to the records, in order to study the symptoms which have led to the diagnosis of perforation.

Although medical men are more alert than ever to make the diagnosis of perforation, the difficulties have not materially diminished except in so far as they are more ready to advise exploratory operation when perforation is suspected. As Osler 1 has said, what we need is a fuller knowledge of the symptoms of perforation apart from those of the consecutive peritonitis, which is what is usually diagnosed.

It is at the end of the second week and in the third week that we are to be on the look out, and from then on, even throughout convalescence. The average period of the disease at which perforation occurred in my group of 17 hospital eases was the twenty-seventh day of the disease.

We are to bear in mind the greater probability of perforation in severe cases and in those with distention or hæmorrhage, and that it is not uncommon in walking typhoid. In 4 of the 17 eases in the table there had been previous hæmorrhage; in at least I ease distention had been a marked feature; but in the majority of eases the previous course had been that of a typical typhoid and not unusually severe.

Having, then, a certain period and certain types of eases in which we are to be especially on the outlook for signs of perforation, what are these signs or symptoms? I have divided the symptoms present in each case into two groups, the initial symptoms and those subsequently developed, the latter depending on the consecutive peritonitis.

There is only one symptom that has been nearly uniformly present in all the cases on the list, and that is abdominal pain, usually eoming on suddenly and generally severe. It was present in 15 out of 17 cases, and slight pain was present in another case. It is usually complained of in the lower half of the abdomen and most often on the right side. In the one remaining ease it is distinctly stated that there was no pain, and here an apparently walled-off eavity containing fæcal matter and lymph was found on operation. In the ease in which the pain was slight there was no perforation in the ileum but sloughing areas in the sigmoid, with perforation.

Tenderness was the next most common symptom, being noted in 7 cases in the early stages and in 5 others subsequently. Rigidity was only mentioned in 4 eases at the outset but developed in 9 others before operation. Perhaps the percentage of eases showing tenderness and rigidity as initial symptoms is lower than in the experience of most others, but these are symptoms of peritonitis, and the most reliable ones, rather than of the perforation itself.

The complaint of sudden severe abdominal pain is noted by writers on the subject as a "reliable and constant symptom" (F. T. Stewart ⁵), "the note of alarm," (Armstrong ⁶), "the most valuable sign," (McCrae & Mitchell ⁷), and one that should "always lead to the suspicion of perforation and beginning peritoneal infection" (Shattuck, Warren and Fraser ⁸).

To be sure, as pointed out by Stewart,⁵ pain is a frequent symptom in uncomplicated cases of typhoid, tenderness is common over the ileum and slight rigidity may be present. But the sudden onset of severe pain in the right lower quadrant or the lower half of the abdomen in a case of typhoid should create a very strong suspicion of perforation. If in a short time tenderness and rigidity are associated with it we should not wait for further indications but advise operation at once. If we have any symptom of the perforation itself it is the severe pain of sudden onset, and if this merely indicates commencing peritonitis it is the best early symptom that we have.

I agree with Harte ² that rigidity is a most valuable sign; but that "it is never wanting except in patients with unusually large and pendulous abdomens" I can not agree. In at least two eases on the list its absence was noted and in one ease (No. 14), in spite of the absence of liver dulness, its absence at my first examination led me to delay operation and thus miss the most favorable time to operate. Since that experience I would not wait for the presence of rigidity before making the diagnosis of perforation or advising operation. Rigidity and tenderness are our most valuable signs of peritonitis and are not always present until this is well established. In typhoid the sensorium seems to be so blunted that they are not present as certainly or as early as in eases of appendicitis.

Vomiting was present in 4 cases as one of the initial symptoms, often in consequence of the severe abdominal pain, but in one case without any pain or other symptom but weakness (Case IX). Vomiting was present in 7 other cases among stage but was slight in one ease and had been constantly present in the other.

An initial fall of temperature was not noted in any ease. As Osler 1 says, "The time-honored pieture of perforation must be erased." It was present as a late symptom in 2 eases, indicating collapse due to peritonitic absorption. Murphy 9 rightly lays great stress on the point that there is little depression immediately after the perforation of the intestine and no eollapse, and that the latter is a late symptom and the expression of absorption of infective material. It is an unfavorable symptom. Early eollapse is more a symptom of hæmorrhage than of perforation, both of which may occur together.

Among the late symptoms more or less distention or tympanites was noted in 13 eases, dulness in the flanks in 4, diminution or absence of abdominal breathing in 5, and of the liver dulness in 5. The loss or lessening of liver dulness with a flat belly may be pathognomonie of intestinal perforation, but it is a late and variable symptom as a rule. The leucoeyte count was not of much assistance. It was high (over 12,000) in 3 eases and somewhat high for typhoid in 4 (7700, 7900, 8000, 9200), but in one of the latter it had been 12,000 six days before. In others it remained low.

Rise of temperature, pulse and respiration was the rule; in some cases the temperature became high.

The late symptoms confirm the diagnosis but we should endeavor to operate before these symptoms develop.

We need nothing more than the characteristic pain, tenderness in a fixed spot, and rigidity, to indicate an immediate operation, and we need not require both the tenderness and rigidity to be present before proceeding to an exploratory operation. The latter is quite safe, far safer than a fatal delay, and one may perhaps anticipate perforation and, by infolding the intestine over the sloughy base of an ulcer, prevent it. In one case during the past summer, having recently had the experience above referred to, when, owing to the absence of rigidity and marked tenderness, I delayed operation when perforation existed, I did an exploratory operation when

there was merely a strong suspicion of perforation on the part of the medical staff. The patient at the end of the second week of the disease complained of sudden severe abdominal pain and considerable tenderness in the right lower quadrant, and there was diminished abdominal respiration. No rigidity or other symptoms were present. On operation no perforation and no peritonitis was found. As a result of an appendicectomy and salpingeetomy done four years before there were several bands of adhesions, binding the ileum into the pelvis, which were freed. One of these was adherent to the ileum at the situation of an ulcerated Peyer's patch and, together with the neighboring intestine, was quite congested. After operation the patient was free from the pain and tenderness and made an uninterrupted convalescence. In another such case operated on by Dr. F. Tilden Brown last summer no perforation was found and the temperature fell to normal the next day and continued I have explored through an incision under cocaine anæsthesia and found no free gas, fluid or other signs of peritonitis and hence excluded perforation. In such cases one can exhaust a sterilized catheter passed to the bottom of the pelvis to determine the absence or character of free fluid.

In connection with the operation itself there are several points as to which opinion and practice among different surgeons vary to some extent. Firstly, as to anæsthesia. I much prefer general anæsthesia. These cases take gas and ether well, and the latter is a heart stimulant. In my first two eases at the Presbyterian Hospital I used eocaine anæsthesia. The incision is painless and the procedure is satisfactory for the purpose of exploration to determine whether free fluid or other signs of perforation or peritonitis are present. But retraction of the edges and the necessary handling of the inflanted intestines are painful and this together with the realization of being subjected to operation, in spite of a blunted sensibility, causes more shock than the same operation under general anæsthesia. Most surgeons now prefer general anæsthesia but others, such as Cushing, ¹⁰ and Hays ¹¹ operate mostly under eocaine anæsthesia

thesia. If eocaine is used a few whiffs of ehloroform may be advantageously given when the peritoneal eavity is opened.

As the lower three feet of the ileum is by far the most frequent site for the perforation, -in 95.5 per cent. according to Haggard,12 while according to Harte 2 73 per cent. were in the lower twelve inches,—the incision should be placed so as to readily expose this part. I prefer the ineision through the right reetus, as the lower end of this allows better drainage of the pelvis than the right oblique incision which is preferred by some. Owing to the fact that in cases at the time of operation there is as a rule more or less free fluid, often of a foul odor, and some intestinal contents extravasated, the best method of getting rid of this is important. My personal preference is for irrigation with a large amount of hot normal saline solution through a large Chamberlain tube. In these cases there are seldom many if any adhesions and all parts of the peritoneal cavity may be irrigated and cleansed with the least possible traumatism. Furthermore the hot saline is an effective stimulant. In the table of hospital cases irrigation was used in 14, not mentioned in 2 and not used in 1. In the last named only the area about the perforation was cleansed with the salt solution, and though operated on about 2 hours after the perforation, in relatively good condition, the patient died with symptoms of peritonitis less than 36 hours after operation. Whether the occurrence of peritonitis would have been avoided by irrigation no one can say. Some surgeons do not irrigate. Thus of 7 cases reported by McCrae and Mitchell, 7 as operated on at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, irrigation was employed in only one case.

Anderson,¹³ believing that the cause of death after operation for typhoid perforation is toxæmia from the contents of the paralyzed bowel, recommends that the ileum be emptied of its contents and the bowel itself irrigated through the perforation and through special incisions. He has used this method in 9 cases with satisfactory results. The chief objection to this procedure lies in the time required, as it is generally agreed that a short operation and an early operation are two of the essential requirements for success.

Drainage is almost always used. In one successful ease of Dr. F. T. Brown's (see table) drainage was omitted but there was little or no free fluid. The method of drainage varies greatly. After irrigation I use a large rubber tube split down the side, with a core of gauze, or else a large cigarette drain introduced well down into the pelvis. According to the experiments of F. T. Murphy,¹⁴ the latter is walled off earlier; the tube, therefore, drains the general peritoneal eavity for a longer time. Then with the head of the bed raised very high, in the high Fowler position, gravity assists all free fluid into the pelvis from which it is drained away.

In the table of 17 hospital cases 4 recovered, a mortality of 76.4 per cent. Of my own 6 hospital eases 2 recovered, a mortality of 66.6 per cent., or, including one previous case operated on in private for septic peritonitis of origin unknown to the two eminent consultants who saw the ease three hours previously, a mortality of 71.4 per cent.

Of the eases which died, my first ease died on the table while infusion was being given. Operation had been made possible only by a clysis given just before. Fifty-two hours was the longest that any fatal case survived the operation.

The time between perforation and operation varied from 2 to 30 hours, and averaged 10.3 hours in the 15 in which it is mentioned. The day of the disease on which perforation occurred varied from the tenth to the sixty-sixth and averaged the twenty-seventh day. Three were in the second week, 5 in the third, I in the fourth and 7 at a later period. Of those that recovered one was shown to the N. Y. Surgical Society by me in December, 1905. My other successful case subsequently developed Pott's disease of the spine. As to his convalescence, his temperature first reached normal 19 days after operation and a week later he had what appeared to be a relapse for 12 or 13 days. Sixteen days after operation he developed a fæcal fistula through the sinus left by the drains. This fistula closed in 3 weeks. Whether this came from the sutured perforation

or a second perforation, cannot be definitely stated. Cases where a second perforation has occurred subsequently have been nearly uniformly fatal.

In connection with the cases that recovered it may be of interest to eall attention to the fact that the ages were 9, 13, 17, and 23. The percentage of recovery in cases of children from 6 to 15 years is about twice that of adults. These cases developed in the tenth, forty-fourth, sixty-sixth and twenty-ninth day of the disease respectively. The cases developing on the forty-fourth and sixty-sixth day of the disease were in a relapse, and such eases as well as those occurring in convalescence give a more favorable prognosis.

The last ease I operated on deserves especial mention on account of the unusual site of the perforation, i.e., in the sigmoid colon. This patient, M. B., 20 years old, had run a fairly typical typhoid course with considerable abdominal distention throughout when, on the morning of the twenty-fifth day, the day of the perforation, she passed a few small blood-clots through the reetal tube. The pain at the time of perforation was not very acute and was referred, with the tenderness, to the left lower quadrant. There was no rigidity. The ineision was made in the median line on account of the symptoms and no perforation was found in the ileum after eareful search. On examinating the large intestine a good sized irregular necrotic area was found in the sigmoid with a perforation on either side. This was inverted with two rows of Lembert sutures with some difficulty, owing to the friable condition of the surrounding parts. She died 18 hours after operation. On post-mortem the sigmoid for 6 or 8 inches in the vieinity of the perforation presented a worm-eaten appearance of the mucosa, the edges of the ulcerations not being undermined. At two other points perforation appeared imminent. The perforated area was gangrenous.

In the tables of Hare and Ashhurst among 190 eases the large intestine was involved only 7 times, and among these 7 the sigmoid only once. The prognosis is worse in cases of perforation of the large intestine and they have been overlooked and only found on autopsy.

In conclusion, without summarizing all the facts of importance, I would emphasize (1) the value of severe pain of sudden onset in the lower half of the abdomen as an early sign of perforation and its increased value as an indication for operation when associated with localized tenderness and rigidity; (2) the importance of exploratory operations in case of doubt in view of the good results which follow if no perforation is found and of the earlier period at which the operation is done if perforation is present.

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TABLE OF CASES OPERATED ON AT THE PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL.

Result.	Died while in- fusion being given ontable	Died in 5-6 hrs.	Died in 32 hrs.	Died in 81% hrs.	Died in 28 hrs.	Recovery.
Drainage.	Cigarette.	Rubber tube. Fourstrips of gauze.	Glass. Several strips of gauze	3 Cigarette.	Vaginal.	No drainage.
Irriga-	X X	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	٠٠
Operation.	Cocaine. Med. incis. Turbid serum. Perf. 34" in diam., 5" from	bert sturfers, Ketrac- tion of wound and bandling gut painful. Through R. rectus. Yellow fluid, fæcal odor. Perf. 12" from cæ cu m. Tiss ue	X" around excised; 2. layers Lembert sutures. Cocaine. R. intermuseular incision. A little chloroform. Peul green fluid. Perl X" dian.	from cacum. Three tiers Lembert sutures. Cocaine. Med. incis. Large amount purulent serum. Perf. 2" from cacum. Lem-	bert sutures. Chlorof. Med. incis. Foul yellow fluid; 3 Perforations in ileum sutured.	Gas and ether. Inter- nascular incision. Adherent omentum nearly closed minute perforation.
Time of Oper'n after		30 brs.	% hrs.	14 hrs.	20 hrs.	7 hrs.
Subsequent Symptoms of Perforation.	Vomiting. Free perspiration. Hiccough, Pulse imperceptible. Organization before		vomiting. Temp. 1030 to 99°. L. C. 7,000 to 12,000 to 15,200. distention and tym- pany. Slight shifts. Liver dulness in flanks.		rness, rigidity, ttion and then ht distention, ting. Tempera-	ure. Dullness over lower addomen. Temp, and pulse rose. Rigidity and tympany began to appear. L. C. 3,600.
First Symptoms of Perforation.	Abd'minal pain and tender-ness. Mass size of finger in right illac	fossa. Rigid- ity not men- tioned. Severe abdom- inal pain.	Sudden ab- dominal pain. Vomiting in 2 hours.	Severe con- stantabdomi- nal pain and tenderness.	Severe pain in excal region, disappeared with ice bag.	returned more severe. Very severe pain in Rt. lower quad- rant. No rig- idity or tym-
Previous Course of Disease.	1 "	Widal pos. 22d day. Diarrhoca. Ordinary ty- phoid.	Ordinary; 2 hæmorrhages 20 and 2 days before.		pos. hæm. yesterday. Ordinary course. Widal posi- tive.	Ordinary. Widal positive tith day. Numerous hamorrbages
Day of Disease	In Relapse.	<u> </u>	r,	St.	36	R
Operator.	Woolsey.	Oct. 11, Hawkes. 1900	Feb. 17, McCosb.	July 26, Woolsey. 1901	Brown.	Brown.
Date.	Sep. 8, 1900		Feb. 17. 1901	July 26, 1901	Aug. 3,	Sep. 6, 1902
Name and Age.	M.D. 25	C.H.	V.S. 18	면 전	A.S.	K.M.
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Died in 14 hrs.	Recovery. On 16th day incul- fistula. Re- lapse. Later Pott's disease of spine.	Died in 25 brs	Died in 25 hrs.	Died in 6 hrs.	Died in 59 hrs.	Recovery. Relapse very long, followed by another relapse.
Cigarette.	Large cigar- ette to pelvis and R. iliac fossa.	Cigaretto.	2 Cigarette.	3 Cigarette.	2 Cigarette.	Large rubber tu be with guarecore to pelvis. High Fowler posi- tion.
Yes	V _G	~ ·	Yes	Yes	Yes	× es
Chlorof. Rt. rectus incision. Free fluid, no gas. Perf. 34" in diameter sutured.	Gas and ether. Rt. in- term's ceinal riceison. Appendix normal re- mo v ed. Purulent serum. Perf. in lower 18" in lieum. Purse string and row of Lembert sutures. Thinned patch in-	Chlorof. Incision through R. rectus. Perf. in Jower fleum. Silk Lembert sutures. Apparently walfed off cavity containing	Gas and ether. Med. incision. Foulserum. Perf. 16" fr. excum. Purse string suture.	Gas and ether. Med. incision. Free gas and serum. Perf. 18" from execum. Two layers of Lembert	Salutes. Salutes and ether, Medincision. A little gas and foul fluid. Perf. %" diam., 12" from cceum. Itwo layers	Gas and ether. R. rectus incision. Foul greenish fulle. Perf. X. diam., 15. from coccum. Two rows of Lembert sutures. Omentum adherent to gut at ulerrated patch above.
4½ hrs.	٥.	0.	۰.	6 brs.	4 hrs.	6 hrs.
ty- Sudden pain, Liver dulness 1" high. 1% hrs. tenderness No abdominal respinant on drightly ration. Rightly and him. Rt. illac tenderness increased.	Some rigidity, tender- ness and tympanites. Diminished perisal- sis and abdominal respiration.	Distention, slight rig- idity in Rt. lower quadrant.	Noabdominal respira- tion. Distention. Movable dulness in fanks. General ten-	Temperature rose to rose. Volume of the rose of period signs of peritonitis.	Vomiting. Hiccough. Liver dulness diminished. L. C. 7,900.	Temp.109(from 1019). L. C., Tyoo. Rigidity be lo w umblicus. Tympanites. Slight shifting dalmess. Ab- dominal respiration absent in lower half.
Sudden pain, tenderness and rigidity in Rt. iliac	About and tender- ness.	Vomiting, in- ability to hold anything on the stomach. Weak ness. No pain.	Brought to Intense abdo- hospital with minal pain. symptoms of peritonitis.	ty- Severeabdom- inal pain. Rigidity in lower abdo- men.	์ ดี "" " "	outry. Suddenpainin in Rt. lower quadrant. Marked ten- derness below umbilicus.
Ordinary ty- pboid.	In bed only I. week. Had so lid food. Brought to hospital with peritonitis. Diag.,appen- dicitis.	About Typical.	Brought to hospital with symptoms of peritonitis.	Ordinary ty- phoid.	Considerable abdominal pain.	Original fever 8 days. Nor- mal 19 days. Relapse sc- vere. Widal pos. 2d week of relapse.
0,	2	About 21	Sick some days.	15	8	66 34th day of relapse
Brown.	Woolsey.	Oct. 21, McCosb.	Nov. 6, McWilliams. 1903	Hawkes.	Sep. 30, Hawkes. 1904	W.C. July 28, Woodsey. 177 1905
July 26, Brown. 1902	Sep. 23, 1903	Oct. 21, 1903	Nov. 6, 1903	W.J.K. Sep. 22, 21 1904	Sep. 30, 1904	July 28, 1905
M.B.	H.M.	B.B.	ξ. Ki	W.J.K.	M.M. 19	W.C.
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TABLE OF CASES OPERATED ON AT THE PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL_Continued.

Result.	Died in 14 hrs.	Died in 18 brs.	Died.	Recovery.
Drainage.	Large eigar- ette drain.	Rubber tube, gauze core, aud large cig- arette drain.	Large cigar- Died.	Cigarette drain.
Irriga- tion.	× ×	ž g	No. only local cleans- ing-	Yes
Operation.	Gas and ether. R. rectus incision. Gas and free fluid. Perf. If in diameter in lower 18" of ileum. Purse string and row of Lembert sutures.	Gas and some free Gas and some free find. No. perf. in fluid. No. perf. in second second free free free free free free free fre	Gas and ether. R. rectus heision. Free gas and 8 oz. free fluid. Perf. 8" from cecum. Purse string and one row Lenibert sutures.	Ether, R. Intermuse. Jetislon, Free fluid, no color, Pinhole per IS' from cacum. Purse string and Lembert sutures.
Time of Oper'n after Perf'n.	24 hrs.	4% hrs.	2 hrs.	S brs.
Subsequent Symptoms of Perforation.	First seen by me after enema, when symptoms temporarily relieved. Later slight rightly and distention. Temperature fell to 99°. Liver dulness absent.	Vomiting, Temp. 195°, pulse the Distention. Federness below and to left of umbilicus. Pain not swere. No rigidity. Liver dulness normal.	Temp.rose 102°10.103°0. L. C. 11,400 to 12,30°. Abdomen tend er, rigid. slight distention. Liver dulness diminished.	d. hrs. later distention. Rigidity and tender- mess especially in R. fline region. Some dulness in both flanks. Abdominal resp. diminished. L. C. 9.200. Temp. rose to 104°.
First Symptoms of Perforation.	Sudden abdo- minal pain. d is appeared and then re- turned. Ab- domen a little distended but soft.	Some pain in left lower quadrant. Quadrant. Distention and rise of temperature.	Sudden severe painand chill, nausea and vomiting.	Sudden severe pain in R. L. Q., with some local tender- ness and rig- idity.
Previous Course of Disease.	4 weeks ago heat prostration Widal negative. L. C. isth. 13,-600; 19th. 17,-300.	Typical.Widal positive. Distended a 11 along. L. C. Glood, Blood through rectal tube, Sep. 15, a. m.	Typical.	Typical.Widal Spesitive. L. C.8,700. Distended for 3 days.
Day of Disease	1	22	Si Si	1n Re- lapse.
Operator.	Woolsey.	Sep. 15, Woolsey.	Eliot.	Jan. 14., Hawkes. 1906
Date.	Aug. 19, 1905		Dec. 19, Eliot.	Jan. 14,
Name and Age.	. S	M.B. 20	G.H. 21	e S
g	3	ž.	91	17